

Murphy decries senators' move

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressional move to reject the sale of 1,600 Maverick anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia comes as a "slap across the face" at a time when the United States is striving to defuse tensions in the Gulf, a State Department official said Wednesday. Richard W. Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "I cannot hide my dismay" that a disapproval resolution was introduced on the eve of delicate negotiations between Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger and Prince Sultan, the Saudi defence minister. The resolution was co-sponsored by 64 of the 100 members of the Senate. Mr. Murphy offered a rebuttal to arguments against the pending \$360 million sale of an enhanced version of the Maverick air-to-ground missile and appealed to the committee to reject the resolution of disapproval. A committee vote could come as early as Thursday. The sale will go forward unless Congress adopts a disapproval resolution by June 29, thirty days after the request was first submitted. "I am, frankly, surprised by the strongly negative congressional reaction to this proposed sale," Mr. Murphy said, adding: "I submit there are no reasonable grounds to prohibit this sale."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab American News Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Sudan to repeal Sharia

KHARTOUM (R) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said Wednesday a political decision had been made to replace Islamic law in Sudan with substitute laws exempting non-Muslims from Islamic punishments. He told parliament the substitute laws, to be submitted to parliament at a later date, would also include new regulations for the domestic banking sector. Zakat (Islamic tax) and financial dealings with foreign countries. "There will be a penal code based on Sudanese legal heritage and it will apply Sharia tenets on Muslims but will exempt non-Muslims," he said in a key policy speech. The introduction of Sharia in mainly-Muslim Sudan by ex-president Jaafar Numeiri, overthrown by a military coup in 1985, swelled the ranks of anti-government rebels fighting troops in the African, animist and Christian south. The implementation of such Sharia punishments as public flogging and cutting off hands also triggered an outcry among human rights activists in north Sudan and was frowned upon by the West. The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has set the total abrogation of Sharia as one of its conditions for peace talks with the Khartoum government.

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Sharif Zaid leaves for London

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker left for London on Wednesday on a several-day visit to Britain. He was seen off at Amman airport by Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Tach.

Iraqi leader vows to liberate all Iranian-held territory

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein vowed on Wednesday that Iraq would retake all the land occupied by Iran in the Gulf war, which is in its seventh year. "Every hilltop or patch of sand seized will be taken from the pupils of their eyes," President Hussein said as he decorated Iraqi officers and soldiers for bravery in the war with Iran. The president said Iran had failed to make any major breakthrough in the war. Referring to the Iranian tactics of launching small-scale attacks in northern Iraq, President Hussein said the Iranians "are a bull here or there and then say that they took a hilltop only to claim that they have achieved a major victory." "You will witness how Iran will be falling apart while we will emerge victorious," President Hussein told the officers and soldiers.

Kuwaiti killed in Ahmadi sabotage

KUWAIT (AP) — Preliminary investigations indicate that a Kuwaiti was killed while trying to blow up gas storage tanks here last month, an Interior Ministry spokesman announced Wednesday. "The remnants of a corpse found at the scene turned out to be the body of Faisal Almadani Naimz, who disappeared immediately after the blast," the spokesman was quoted as saying by the official Kuwaiti News Agency. The spokesman was referring to an explosion that started a fire at the Ahmadi gas storage tank farm on May 22. It took the fire brigade and troops three days to put out the fire.

Sri Lanka halts assault on Jaffna

COLOMBO (R) — The Sri Lankan government said Wednesday it had halted an army offensive against Tamils in the northern Jaffna peninsula and was ready for peace talks. National Security Minister Lalith Athipaththi told Reuters: "Operation liberation has been completed. We are consolidating now." "While the consolidation process goes on there will still be time for peace initiatives if anyone wants and we will try for peace talks." General Cyril Ranasingha, who directed the offensive said: "I have suspended the operation today. We want to give peace a chance."

Moscow expels Swiss diplomat

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union on Wednesday announced that it had declared a Swiss diplomat persona non grata and ordered him to leave the country within a week. The official TASS news agency said Swiss embassy First Secretary Erich Fischer was being expelled for "activities incompatible with his status as a diplomat." The phrase is generally used to denote spying.

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Israeli soldiers storm Dheishe

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli soldiers stormed the Palestinian refugee camp of Dheishe overnight and conducted a house-to-house search and arrested an unknown number of Palestinians, reports said Wednesday.

According to Israeli reports and Arabs quoted by news agencies, the storming came after Palestinians stoned Israeli vehicles and two Israeli women were injured while the residents of the camp were also expecting armed Jewish settlers to attack the camp for a second time in four days. In a separate incident, four assailants, said to be Israelis, stabbed and wounded a Palestinian in Bethlehem Tuesday night. The Palestinian was quoted as saying he was attacked by four Jews with razor blades. He said the four wore yarmulkes, the head caps worn by observant Jews.

Following the storming of the Dheishe camp, the Israeli army also imposed a curfew on the area. The curfew was reported to be in force Wednesday.

According to an Israeli spokesman, the soldiers entered the camp after "violent" Palestinian demonstrations and stoning of Israeli vehicles.

Israeli army radio said the soldiers combed the camp house-to-house searching for Palestinian "suspects." The radio did not report any arrests but other reports said an unknown number of Palestinians were detained.

Other reports also indicated that the Palestinians in the camp were expecting Jewish settlers to stage another attack similar to one they staged overnight Saturday. In that attack, which was reportedly sparked by a fistfight in which an Israeli youth was wounded, settlers smashed windows of cars and homes, smashed water tanks and destroyed other Arab-owned property in the camp.

The residents of the camp were "prepared" to counter the expected assault Tuesday night, according to reports.

The residents had erected barricades and set up "concentrations" of stones and roadblocks inside the camp to prevent a possible storming, reports said. But Israeli soldiers dismantled the barricades and roadblocks when they stormed the camp Tuesday night after using tear-gas and opened fire at Palestinians demonstrating outside the camp.

A Jewish woman was lightly injured by broken glass during the stonethrowing Tuesday and treated on the spot, a spokesman said. The army radio said another Jewish woman was lightly wounded when her car was stoned.

The radio quoted Palestinian residents of Dheishe as saying the violence "was expected after Saturday's events," referring to the Jewish settlers' rampage through the camp. They also clashed with Israeli soldiers. Israeli leaders and army generals have condemned the settlers for firing shots, smashing windows and struggling with soldiers in the rampage last week on Dheishe.

Rockets land near Gemayel's palace; Muslim leaders meet in Damascus

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Three rockets fired from west Beirut exploded around President Amin Gemayel's palace on Wednesday, but the head of state was not hurt, police reported.

The attack marked an escalation of sectarian tension gripping Lebanon since the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

It was the first time since Jan. 10 that Mr. Gemayel's hilltop palace in suburban Baabda east of Beirut came under rocket fire.

Police said the rockets crashed and exploded in the gardens, causing no casualties or damage. It could not be determined which faction fired the missiles.

The attack came as Muslim leaders held talks in Damascus on the smoldering political crisis triggered by Mr. Karami's assassination on June 1.

Acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss cancelled all appointments.

in Beirut and travelled to Damascus overland to join the talks, aides said.

He was accompanied by Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein, who said last Friday he was resigning, citing Mr. Gemayel's failure to crack down on right-wing extremists the Muslims hold responsible for Mr. Karami's assassination.

Also involved in the Damascus talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam are Druze leader Walid Junblatt and Shi'ite Amal militia chieftain Nabih Berri.

Mr. Junblatt, Mr. Berri and George Hawi, leader of the Lebanese Communist Party, held several rounds of talks with Mr. Khaddam before the arrival of Mr. Hoss and Mr. Hussein.

"The situation in Lebanon is being completely reconsidered in light of the Karami assassination," Mr. Junblatt said. He did

not elaborate. Reuters reported that the Muslim leaders were to discuss formation of a new Syrian-backed front aimed at putting pressure on Mr. Gemayel and Christian hardliners.

Sources quoted by the news agency said the new front's demands would include equality for Muslims in Lebanon's political system, which is now weighted in favour of Christians, and the truth about Mr. Karami's murder.

Mr. Karami, killed by a bomb blast on an army helicopter, was a key ally of Syria and Syrian-backed leaders have accused the army, Mr. Gemayel and especially the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia of responsibility.

The fiercely anti-Syrian "Lebanese Forces" uphold

Iran-contra probe results seen as most extraordinary

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Iran-contra hearings have prompted some of the most extraordinary testimony in the 200-year history of the U.S. Congress, according to a leading Democrat.

Representative Lee Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat who heads the House of Representatives Select Committee probing the scandal, said disclosures in more than 100 hours of testimony from 18 witnesses since May 5 attested to a "remarkable chaos in the process of government."

The House of Representatives and Senate committees have been investigating secret White House sales of U.S. weapons to Iran to help free American hostages in Lebanon and the possibly illegal diversion of profits to "contra" rebels fighting the government of Nicaragua.

The televised hearings are the most comprehensive into possible wrongdoing by an administration since the Watergate probes helped destroy the presidency of Richard Nixon in 1974.

"Surely these committees have heard some of the most extraordinary testimony ever presented to the Congress," Mr. Hamilton said in a statement marking the end of the opening phase on Tuesday when the hearings recessed until June 22.

He listed: — An elaborate private network set up to carry out U.S. foreign policy. Private citizens, some motivated by profits, sold arms and negotiated for hostages.

— President Reagan was involved in private fund-raising for the contras.

— The president approved

payments to "terrorists" for hostages.

— Senior officials did not know, and chose not to know, important facts about policy.

— A national security adviser and an assistant secretary of state withheld information and misled Congress concerning U.S. involvement in the contra supply operation and the solicitation of funds from third countries.

— An official designated by the secretary of state as "a loose cannon" — White House aide Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, who was sacked after the scandal became public — carried out highly sensitive negotiations to obtain the release of hostages, and gave White House approval to a plan to depose Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and go to war with the Soviet Union in defence of Iran.

— The same official participated with others in an effort to rewrite chronologies, altered critical documents and organised a "shredding party" to destroy documents.

— Money from the sale of U.S. arms to Iran was diverted to the contras and for the use of several private individuals.

— "What that committees have heard is a depressing story," Mr. Hamilton said.

"It is a story of deception of the Congress and the American people. It is also a story of remarkable chaos in the process of government."

He added: "Those involved, whether public official or private citizen, had no doubt they were acting on the authority of the president."



GREAT ARAB REVOLT MARKED: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior government officials and Armed Forces officers attend a ceremony held at the Martyrs Monument to mark the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day on Wednesday (See page 3)

Rifai and Kasm begin meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasm arrived in Amman on Wednesday on an official visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior Jordanian officials.

The Syrian premier, who later held one round of talks with Mr. Rifai, is heading an official delegation that includes Interior Minister Mohammad Ghabash, Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, and Minister of Transport Yousef Al Ahmad.

The Syrian prime minister and his delegation were accorded an official reception at the airport by Mr. Rifai and senior government officials.

Upon arrival in Amman, Dr. Kasm stated that Syria sought to establish solidarity among Arab countries as a step leading to unity that can confront the enemies of the Arab Nation.

Syria, he said, has been working towards confronting Zionism and imperialism and will continue efforts for liberating the occupied Arab territories and freeing the Arab population under Israeli rule.

Dr. Kasm said he was pleased to meet with the Jordanian leaders and discuss issues of common concern to Jordan and Syria and bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Mr. Rifai welcomed the Syrian prime minister and the delegation

(Continued on page 3)

Iraqis observing self-imposed halt to attacks on shipping

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq is observing a self-imposed halt to attacks on shipping in the Gulf in what diplomats see as a show of support for western efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Iraqi warplanes have not made a single attack on Gulf shipping since they accidentally struck the U.S. frigate Stark on May 17, killing 37 crew.

"Iraq probably does not want to escalate the tanker war when peace initiatives favourable to it are under way in the West," one diplomat quoted by Reuters said.

Iraqi jets have been in action only once since the Stark attack — in a dogfight with Iranian jets in the northern Gulf three days later.

Diplomats say the lull in aerial activity is one of the longest in the nearly seven-year-old war, a central concern at the summit of major industrial democracies which ended in Venice on Wednesday.

In Venice, the leaders of the United States, Britain, West Germany, France, Canada, Italy and Japan called for "just and effective measures" in the U.N. Security Council to end the war.

They said freedom of navigation in the Gulf was of paramount importance and vowed to consult further on how to achieve it.

Washington sees the Venice declaration as possibly leading to a Security Council resolution banning arms sales to whichever side refuses peace talks — effectively Iran, since Baghdad has long said it is ready for a negotiated settlement.

However, diplomatic sources at the U.N. told Reuters China, seldom comfortable with superpower initiatives, has reservations about the Gulf peace plan that has support from the United States and the Soviet Union.

The sources said China was unlikely to veto the proposed Security Council demand for a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq that would also threaten enforcement measures if the call went

Western leaders end summit with pledges over economy and AIDS

Venice statement voices 'serious concern' over Mideast and calls for dismantling of apartheid

VENICE (Agencies) — The Venice summit ended on Wednesday with a pledge from the seven leading industrial democracies to step up coordination in economic policy, combat illegal drugs, and to work together to find a cure for the deadly disease AIDS.

The closing statement text was read out by Italian caretaker Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani summit participants seated in a 1,000-year-old Benedictine Monastery on Venice's heavily-guarded San Giorgio island.

It capped Tuesday's three-pronged political declaration enshrining a consensus on East-West issues, combating terrorism and ensuring freedom of navigation in the Gulf war zone.

On the Middle East, the statement said: "Serious concern was expressed at the continuing dangerous tensions and conflicts in the Near and Middle East and at the absence of concrete progress towards a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute. The need for action to create conditions for a just, global and lasting peace was reaffirmed."

"Concern was also expressed at the situation in the occupied territories."

"The situation in Lebanon, with its serious internal tensions and the persisting problem of the Palestinian camps, continues to give cause for concern."

"In this connection we reaffirmed our hope that genuine efforts be made towards national reconciliation."

Mr. Fanfani said the seven had

Botha renews state of emergency

CAPE TOWN (R) — President P.W. Botha renewed the year-old state of emergency in South Africa on Wednesday and said the nation was still in danger despite a huge crackdown on opponents.

His announcement to parliament, which he later read out on state television, offered no prospect of an early end to emergency rule which has resulted in thousands of detentions without trial, sweeping media censorship and severe restrictions on the anti-apartheid movement.

Mr. Botha, who imposed the emergency to crush political unrest that has left 2,500 dead in black townships, used the speech to launch his toughest-ever attack on the black African National Congress (ANC).

The president blamed exiled ANC leaders for the continued imprisonment of Nelson Mandela and other aged black nationalists in Cape Town's Pollsmoor prison.

The government has pledged it will free Mr. Mandela, 68, who has spent 25 years behind bars, if he renounces violence.

Mr. Botha said the seven had

proposal at the last minute.

In April, Mr. Shultz reached a near-agreement in Moscow with General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev to remove hundreds of medium-range missiles from Europe and Asia.

The Soviet leader also offered to dismantle some 40 shorter-range launchers in Czechoslovakia and East Germany and possibly about 100 others at home. In exchange, the United States must agree not to install its own missiles in the 500 to 900-kilometre range in Western Europe.

Subsequently, the Soviets demanded in Geneva that the Pershing 1A rockets be eliminated as well.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl last week gave his conditional approval to the first nuclear arms control accord of the Reagan administration.

Mr. Shultz headed for Iceland from the summit to seek the North Atlantic Council's formal approval in a meeting that opens Thursday in Reykjavik.

If the Soviets do not yield on the German demand to keep the Pershings, it could prove a major obstacle to a superpower agreement — and a summit meeting between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev in Washington this year.

Weinberger: Gulf reflagging mission may begin next month

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has said U.S. naval protection of 11 Kuwaiti vessels in the Gulf may begin next month — but a key legislator has warned that Congress may act to bar the policy.

Mr. Weinberger, at a hearing Tuesday before the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, said the Reagan administration was committed to putting U.S. flags on 11 Kuwaiti ships in the Gulf and protecting them against Iranian attack.

He said preliminary reflagging procedures would be completed by the end of June and escort service could begin "shortly after the end of the month."

The decision to reflag the Kuwaiti ships — and increase U.S. forces in the Gulf — has been met with disapproval in Congress after the May 17 Iraqi missile attack on the U.S. frigate Stark. The United States accepted Iraq's explanation that the attack was a mistake.

Legislators are concerned that Japan and Western European allies, who import a greater proportion of their oil from the Gulf than does the United States, are not paying their fair share for protection of ships in the strategic waterway.

Representative Les Aspin, chairman of the House committee, warned Mr. Weinberger that sentiment was growing in Congress to bar the reflagging unless the administration gets more help

from its allies. "I'm just warning you that the policy of getting our allies on board here has to be relentless and uncompromising or this policy is going to go down the drain in Congress," said Mr. Aspin, a Democrat.

Mr. Weinberger said U.S. officials were still trying to rally support and he pointed to a statement issued Tuesday at the Venice Economic Summit of the world's major industrialised democracies, which stressed the importance of freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

U.S. legislators are also concerned that U.S. forces could be dragged into the nearly seven-year Iran-Iraq war.

Such fears were underscored by Republican Senator Mark Hatfield, who said he would introduce a bill to invoke the war powers resolution when the Kuwaiti reflagging begins.

The war powers act requires Mr. Reagan to consult Congress on any operation in which hostilities appear imminent. U.S. officials said they do not think hostilities are imminent in the Gulf.

Sen. Hatfield rejected Mr. Reagan's stated aim of protecting navigation in the Gulf — which

holds 55 per cent of the world's known oil reserves — with the reflagging operation.

"In fact, this reflagging agreement has very little to do with protecting international waters and quite a lot to do with making, in the words of the president, 'the Iranians go to bed every night wondering what we are going to do,'" Sen. Hatfield said in a toughly worded message to Mr. Reagan.

Some 300 ships in the Gulf have been attacked by Iran and Iraq since 1984 as each country tried to cut off the other's vital oil revenues. No U.S. ship had been hit until the Stark.

Maksoud: Gulf buildup must be temporary

KUWAIT, which supports Iraq, turned to Washington for protection after Iran focused attacks on its shipping. It also chartered three Soviet tankers and sought Chinese aid.

In the hearing, Mr. Weinberger said Gulf states friendly to the United States would rather not have superpower intervention but want their interests protected.

Clovis Maksoud, Arab League ambassador to the United States, said Tuesday the U.S. moves to reinforce its forces in the Gulf must be only temporary.

"The Arabs consider any logistical measures (such as) deployment of naval or any other forces

to be strictly temporary," Mr. Clovis Maksoud told members of the League.

He said land bases or facilities in the region should not be used to strengthen the military posture of either the United States or other outside countries. But he did not mention any possible retaliation the Arab League countries might take if this condition is not met.

Mr. Maksoud said he felt the threat to navigation in the Gulf has been rapidly drawing Soviet and U.S. warships into the area at the expense of negotiation that could end the Iran-Iraq war, which started in September 1980.

"Preoccupation with the Gulf sea lanes must be subordinate to the international efforts to bring about termination of the Iran-Iraq conflict," he said.

The Arab League includes 21 Arab states and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. Egypt was suspended in 1979 after signing a peace treaty with Israel. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Tuesday the United States had been basically what it wanted in the way of support on the Gulf from the summit of major industrial democracies.

Although a political statement issued by leaders of the seven nations represented here did not specifically commit Washington's allies to do more to keep vital Gulf sea lanes open, Mr. Shultz told reporters: "We are not alone in this."

U.K. cuts size of Iranian mission in London

LONDON (R) — Britain said Wednesday it was ordering Iran to reduce the size of its embassy in London following the expulsion of five British diplomats from Tehran.

A brief statement from the Foreign Office said the Iranian mission in London would be reduced to 16 accredited officials, two less than at present.

The decision comes into effect on June 24.

It is the latest move in a deepening crisis between Iran and Britain.

Britain closed the Iranian consulate in Manchester and ordered its five-man staff to leave the country after a senior British diplomat was abducted and beaten in Tehran last month.

Iran responded by expelling five British diplomats on June 6. A British Foreign Office spokesman said: "The British government has decided that the principle of strict numerical reciprocity should be progressively applied to the diplomatic missions of the two countries in each others' capitals."

Iranian Charge d'Affaires Akhbarzadeh Basti was summoned to the Foreign Office Wednesday by the senior civil servant, Sir Patrick Wright, who is head of the Diplomatic Service.

Iranian envoy was reminded that Britain had made clear any retaliation for the closure of the consulate would be unjustified and would give rise to further serious consequences.

France expels 8 Iranian students

France has expelled eight Iranian students on the grounds that their presence endangered its security, the Iranian News Agency IRNA said Wednesday.

In a report from Paris, it said the students were put on a Tehran-bound flight Tuesday.

IRNA, received in London, quoted the wives of some of the Iranians as saying they visited their husbands in prison and found them held in very bad conditions.

Police sources in France said two Iranians were expelled Tuesday.

Tehran warns U.S. against attack on Iranian missile bases in Gulf

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran has warned the United States that it risks attacks on its nuclear reactors and other vulnerable installations if Iranian missile batteries in the war-plagued Gulf are hit.

Tehran Radio said in a commentary Tuesday night that Iranian authorities believe that the Americans, "contrary to what they claim, are unable to accept the risk of attacking Iranian missile bases in the Gulf or other

forms of confrontation. "U.S. centres and nuclear reactors can be more vulnerable than the missile bases of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The commentary noted: "U.S. interests throughout the world are so scattered and uncontrollable that, should America become embroiled with the Islamic Republic, the vulnerability of the U.S. administration would be high."

Khamenei receives Libyan message

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei told Libya's Foreign Minister Jadhalla Azzouz Al Talhi that the United States was "witnessing a setback" in the Gulf region, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Wednesday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Mr. Khamenei made the remark when he re-

ceived Mr. Talhi in Nowshahr on the Caspian Sea north of Tehran.

Mr. Khamenei was in Nowshahr to inspect naval facilities in the Caspian, a land-locked sea bordered by Iran and the Soviet Union.

Mr. Talhi arrived in Tehran on Sunday for talks with Iranian leaders "within the framework of friendly relations between the two countries."

Rafsanjani 'could emerge as winner' in shakeup caused by power struggle

By Nabil Megalli

MANAMA — Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iran's shrewd parliamentary speaker and a man with a talent for collecting political support, could emerge as the winner if a growing power struggle caused by war weariness results in a shakeup within the Iranian leadership, diplomats say.

"There is no doubt that something very big is brewing at present in Iran, and my best guess is that Rafsanjani is coming out on top," said a diplomat in the Gulf area who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

There have been reports for years of a power struggle to succeed Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who is well into his 80s and who is often reported to be in poor health.

Speaking of Khomeini, the diplomat said: "The old man seems to have realised that he has overplayed his hand and that there is mounting disillusionment with his war policies and political ineptitude. Only Mr. Rafsanjani can save the day for the ruling clergy."

A Western diplomatic source who also requested anonymity said Mr. Rafsanjani was the key player in a "rough courtship" between Iran and the United

States that led to the U.S. arms-to-Iran scandal. The Iranians have been acting almost like hurt lovers since the Americans tried to provide a dignified exit for the overthrow of the Shah, he said.

Mr. Rafsanjani, often described as the dynamo of the fundamentalist Islamic regime, maintains a highly mobile strategy based on a wisdom of the fundamentalist Islamic regime, maintains a highly mobile strategy based on a wisdom gained too late by many exiled, assassinated and executed Iranian politicians: Failure to keep climbing results in a complete fall.

"He says the right things at the right time and never commits himself to any single political line," said one source.

During the 1979 U.S. hostage crisis he joined the tide, but when it ended he said it had "cost Iran a lot."

As parliamentary speaker since 1980, Mr. Rafsanjani has been steadily building allegiance among the deputies and through them gaining stature with the masses. He is capable of sharp anti-American rhetoric.

He also has been Khomeini's personal representative at the Supreme Defence Council, headed by President Khamenei, and has managed to keep his men at the top of the powerful Revolutionary Guards.

"If Khomeini dies, I shall stop the war tomorrow," Mr. Rafsanjani was quoted as saying recently in the presence of an Arab official. Others say he privately boasts that he has "ready blueprints for a coup" to be carried out swiftly.

Khomeini, the spiritual leader, still has his power over the masses, even though it might not be as strong as it was in the heyday of the revolution.

"Seven years of a war without any light at the end of the tunnel are too much for a people who should have been basking in the prosperity of oil wealth after the Shah's overthrow," an Arab diplomat said.

"Khomeini's uncompromising logic on the war must seem less convincing than ever before," the diplomat added. "And likely intervention by the superpowers must strengthen the argument of those who say that Iran could gain the upper hand in the Gulf only when peace prevails." — The Philadelphia Inquirer.

China studying Kuwaiti request for shipping aid

PEKING (R) — China said Wednesday it was studying a request from Kuwait for help in protecting its shipping in the Gulf.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters: "Kuwait has put forward to China the request of leasing China's oil tankers or having its oil tankers registered in China. The departments concerned in China are studying the request."

In a separate statement issued at a weekly news briefing, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said China was greatly concerned about the safety of international navigation in the Gulf and ex-

pressed profound sympathy for the anxieties of countries in the region.

"The Chinese government hopes that the parties concerned will exercise restraint and cease attack or the threat of attack on oil tankers and merchant shipping in the Gulf," she said.

She called on Iran and Iraq to end their seven-year-old war soon so that the root cause of tension in the Gulf would be eliminated. "The spokeswoman described as 'sheer fabrication' recent reports in some U.S. newspapers that China and Iran concluded a \$560 million arms-for-oil deal last month."

Greek tanker hits mine in Gulf

BAHRAIN (R) — A Greek tanker loaded with Kuwaiti crude hit a sea mine in the Gulf only hours after the United States and its main allies agreed in Venice on the need to uphold the free flow of oil exports through the waterway.

The captain of the 274,629-deadweight-tonne Ethnic, set ablaze last August in an Iranian missile attack, told Reuters his ship struck the mine on its starboard side at 17:02 GMT Tuesday after loading in Kuwait.

"I saw nothing coming at us ... I heard two explosions from my tanks and I have a little hole and a leak in my tanks," Captain John Psaroudakis said in a ship-to-shore interview.

The Greek captain added that 15 minutes after the hit an unidentified naval vessel came within six miles of the Ethnic "to inquire about our situation, if there was a fire or if we needed any help."

The Ethnic sailed south for a while before anchoring in the Gulf to await instructions from its owners, the Moonlight Shipping Company of Piraeus.

"I am in continuous contact with the naval vessel and they have been with us since the explosions," the captain added.

He said he was lucky because the ship was carrying only 210,000 tonnes, short of a full load, which enabled the crew to move crew in the starboard tanks to the other side.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00
7:30-11:30	Newsdesk	Date with a Star	Evening Show	News Summary	Evening Show Cont.
11:30-12:30	Koran	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
12:30-13:30	Programme Review	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
13:30-14:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
14:30-15:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
15:30-16:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
16:30-17:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
17:30-18:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
18:30-19:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
19:30-20:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
20:30-21:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
21:30-22:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
22:30-23:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
23:30-24:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00
7:30-11:30	Newsdesk	Date with a Star	Evening Show	News Summary	Evening Show Cont.
11:30-12:30	Koran	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
12:30-13:30	Programme Review	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
13:30-14:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
14:30-15:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
15:30-16:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
16:30-17:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
17:30-18:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
18:30-19:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
19:30-20:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
20:30-21:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
21:30-22:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
22:30-23:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
23:30-24:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00
7:30-11:30	Newsdesk	Date with a Star	Evening Show	News Summary	Evening Show Cont.
11:30-12:30	Koran	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
12:30-13:30	Programme Review	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
13:30-14:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
14:30-15:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
15:30-16:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
16:30-17:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
17:30-18:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
18:30-19:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
19:30-20:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
20:30-21:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
21:30-22:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
22:30-23:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
23:30-24:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00
7:30-11:30	Newsdesk	Date with a Star	Evening Show	News Summary	Evening Show Cont.
11:30-12:30	Koran	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
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22:30-23:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
23:30-24:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00
7:30-11:30	Newsdesk	Date with a Star	Evening Show	News Summary	Evening Show Cont.
11:30-12:30	Koran	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
12:30-13:30	Programme Review	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
13:30-14:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
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16:30-17:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
17:30-18:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
18:30-19:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
19:30-20:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
20:30-21:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
21:30-22:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
22:30-23:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
23:30-24:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure

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16:30-17:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
17:30-18:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
18:30-19:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
19:30-20:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
20:30-21:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
21:30-22:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
22:30-23:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
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QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00
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22:30-23:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure
23:30-24:30	News	Cartoons	Children's programmes	Houston Hospital	Safari to Adventure

19:00	..... Paris (RJ)	13:00	..... Dhabran (RJ)
19:05	..... London, Frankfurt (RJ)	13:15	..... Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
19:15	..... Istanbul (RJ)	13:30	..... Kuwait (RJ)
19:45	..... Bangkok (RJ)	13:45	..... Cairo (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)		13:55	..... Dhabran (RJ)
19:20	..... Sana's (LH)	20:40	..... Bahrain, Sharjah (RJ)
19:30	..... Cairo (MS)	21:50	..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:35	..... Jeddah (RJ)	22:00	..... Jeddah, Suma (RJ)
19:39	..... Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)	21:40	..... Cairo (RJ)
19:59	..... Muscat, Doha (GF)	21:39	..... Dubai, Karachi (RJ)
19:55	..... Kuwait (KQ)	22:15	..... Damascus (RJ)
19:58	..... Dubai (EK)	OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
19:59	..... Athens (OA)	07:20	..... Istanbul, Amsterdam (KLM)
17:35	..... Frankfurt (LH)	08:30	..... Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
21:00	..... London, Cairo (BA)	11:10	..... Frankfurt (LH)
06:40	..... London, Cairo (BA)	14:05	..... Cairo (MS)
DEPARTURES		14:30	..... Jeddah (RJ)
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS		14:45	..... Doha, Beirut (GF)
(Terminal 1)		15:00	..... Jeddah (GF)
08:00	..... Amman (RJ)	15:35	..... Kuwait (KQ)
12:00	..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	16:50	..... Dubai (EK)

UNICEF to make Jordan permanent regional centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) plans to make its regional office in Amman a permanent one, serving the Near East and North Africa regions. An agreement is expected to be signed by UNICEF and the Jordanian government in the coming months, according to Mr. Richard Reid, UNICEF's director in Amman.

He said that Amman has been selected to house the UNICEF's regional office in view of the country's unique location within the Arab World and the stability and security this country enjoys.

Mr. Reid voiced his satisfaction with the response of the Jordanian government and the Health Ministry for ensuring good health for children, and reducing the mortality rate among infants who often die before they are a year old.

UNICEF will continue to offer

its social, educational and relief services and provide expertise and guidance to all sectors dealing with health affairs, Mr. Reid noted.

For this reason, he said, UNICEF will continue to carry out vaccination programmes to give immunity to children against major killer diseases and will help national health authorities in the Middle East and North Africa regions to deal with diarrhoea which kills over four million children in the world annually.

Referring to the health situation in Jordan, Mr. Reid said that it is considered good and that the mortality rate among infants continues to drop. He said that Jordanian health services are considered among the best in the region and said he was impressed by the preventive measures pursued in the country to control diseases.



Richard Reid

Jordan, he said, is considered among the best six countries in North Africa and the Middle East, which groups 18 states, that provide the best health services to the public.

Referring to UNICEF's budget, he said that out of a total budget of \$275 million, the Middle East and North Africa region has a budget of \$70 million for this year.

Caritas approves charity projects for Jordan worth JD 150,000

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Caritas International (International Confederation of Catholic Charities and Social Action) has approved projects worth JD 150,000 to be implemented in Jordan, according to Father Moussa Adeli, director of Caritas in Jordan.

Rev. Adeli told the Jordan Times that the approval came during a general assembly meeting of Caritas International in Rome, attended by delegates from 140 countries including Jordan.

The Rome meeting, held under the theme "to build peace let us build communities of justice and charity," has approved two projects in Jordan, one of which will be a kindergarten, the other medical centre, and the third in Maqra, where a social community centre will be implemented in cooperation with the Queen Alia

Social Welfare Fund (QASWF), Rev. Adeli said in an interview upon returning to Amman.

He said that the Rome meeting also approved a project for refurbishing the Greek Catholic hospital in Irbid and supplying it with new equipment.

Asked about Caritas projects in Jordan, Rev. Adeli said Jordan Caritas which was established in 1967 operates five medical centres, three in Amman suburbs, one in Fuheis and one in Zarqa. It also operates vocational training centres in Amman, Zarqa and Fuheis.

He said Caritas continues to provide financial and in-kind assistance to needy people in all country irrespective of their religion or background.

Addressing the assembly meeting in Rome, Father Adeli called on nations to focus their attention and care on the poor and the refugees, not only to help them settle but to defend their right of

repatriation with dignity and a honour as human beings.

Apart from the representatives in the Rome meeting, the annual assembly gathering was attended by several United Nations organisations including the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Rev. Adeli said that delegates in their speeches voiced support for Jordan and its endeavours for peace and paid tribute to the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein in this respect.

The Rome-based confederation seeks to promote collaboration and coordination of charitable and welfare activities in all countries. Work includes training of social workers both in developed and developing countries, vocational training, help to the needy, refugees and immigrants. It also promotes and coordinates relief action in cases of natural disasters or emergencies.

Rifai and Kasm begin talks

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Rifai said that Jordan and Syria had the same aspirations and objectives and therefore they would work together within the framework of a policy outlined by His Majesty King Hussein and President Hafez Al Assad.

Later on Wednesday, the two prime ministers held a meeting at the Prime Ministry. They discussed Syrian-Jordanian relations and current Arab affairs, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Interior Minister Rajai Dajani. The Syrian ministers accompanying Dr. Kasm were also present.

Dr. Kasm and the delegation accompanying him were the guests of honour at a dinner hosted by Mr. Rifai Wednesday night. The dinner was attended by senior Jordanian officials and notables.

While there was discussion initially of an arms embargo against whichever side ignored a ceasefire call, diplomatic sources indicated that a vaguer formulation such as future "appropriate measures" under the U.N. Charter might be cited instead.

Both sides would be allowed some time to comply — perhaps up to six months — further reducing the impact of a council resolution.

The United States began the council effort seeking tough measures against Iran but may have backed down in response to the insistence of other negotiators that to be effective a council resolution must be even-handed. One diplomat said the need for fairness was a reason why drafting and agreement were taking so long.

China has consistently denied reports from Washington that it has become Iran's major arms supplier.

Allegations of Chinese arms sales to Iran have surfaced again recently with reports that Iran is preparing to deploy Chinese-made Silkworm missiles along the

Rockets land near Gemayel's palace

(Continued from page 1)

Christian political privileges in Lebanon and hold sway in the Christian enclave northeast of Beirut.

Christian army commander Michel Aoun met Mr. Gemayel at Beirout on Wednesday, but no details were revealed about the

Western leaders end summit

(Continued from page 1)

island nations in the South Pacific to develop without outside interference and applauded efforts by the Aquino government to overcome Philippine social and economic problems.

The summiters also said particular attention should be paid to economic reform in China and the prospects for a more open dialogue between North and South Korea as a result of the Seoul Olympic Games next year.

The closing declaration covered a wide range of economic goals. It reaffirmed a recent agreement by Western finance ministers on ways to stabilise the dollar.

The summit nations also called for increased international cooperation in combating AIDS but cautioned that any measures against the disease must be "in accordance with the principles of human rights."

Calling AIDS "one of the biggest potential health problems in the world," they declared that the U.N. World Health Organisation was "the best forum for drawing together international efforts on a worldwide level" against the incurable disease.

As part of their joint strategy on the dollar, the summiters endorsed a plan for establishing medium-term goals for their economies. They said their sides would regularly review the nation's performances through the use of common indicators such as the level of interest rates and overall economic growth.

The leaders also called on the world's developing nations to reduce trade barriers in order to preserve "an open world trading system."

"In spreading such a malicious lie through their reptile propaganda machines, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets try to belittle the image of our republic ... and to isolate us in the international arena," the agency added.

One political source quoted by Reuter said the leaders gathered in Damascus would "agree to reforms in the Lebanese political system and reinforce opposition to Gemayel so that he may unveil who was behind the killing of Karami."

Jordan marks Great Arab Revolt, Army Day

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday patronised a celebration organised by the Armed Forces General Command to mark the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day.

The celebration was held at the Martyr's Monument and attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and other senior government officials and high ranking army officers.

Upon his arrival at the ceremony site, the King, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, reviewed the guard of honour and watered the tree of life in the courtyard and wrote lines in the monument's register.

"I do hereby register my pride in and appreciation of the Jordanian Armed Forces on the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day," the King said.

He said that the "Jordanian Armed Forces have inherited the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and they continue to serve as a shield defending the Arab Nation."

Afterwards, the King attended a reception held in his honour at Al Hussein Youth City where he distributed medals to senior officers of the Armed Forces, the Public Security and Civil Defence departments, in recognition of their efforts.

Others present at the reception were Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Speaker of the Lower House Akel Al Fayed, former prime ministers, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Cabinet members, and Parliament deputies, senior officials and public figures, heads of tribes, leaders of trade unions,

and religious denominations, as well as heads of diplomatic missions and military attaches in Jordan, the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army and senior officers.

Later, King Hussein attended a luncheon hosted by the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

On Wednesday evening Prime Minister Zaid Rifai hosted a banquet at the Plaza Hotel in Amman to mark the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day.

The banquet was attended by senior government officials, Cabinet members and members of the diplomatic corps in Amman.

Celebrations in other areas of the Kingdom

On the occasion, there were other celebrations in the country.

At the University of Science and Technology, near Irbid, the Jordanian chapter of the Forum Humanum inaugurated a three-day camp. Participants in the camp's activities are students from the University of Science and Technology and Yarmouk University, as well as university staff.

The participants heard a lecture by Mohammad Ya'qoub from the Faculty of Art at Yarmouk University on the historical background of the Great Arab Revolt.

In Madaba, scouts organised a celebration for the occasion in



His Majesty King Hussein shakes hands with Chief-of-Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and meets with other military and government officials during a celebration marking the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day held at the Martyr's

Monument on Wednesday. Accompanying the King are His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Commander-in-Chief Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (Petra photo)

which several notables spoke about the meanings and the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt. The director of education who attended the celebrations distributed awards to leaders of the scouts movement in Madaba district.

Also on the occasion, the Greater Amman Municipality, in cooperation with the Armed Forces and the Department of Culture and Arts, held a celebration Wednesday at the Hashemite Court, downtown.

During the celebration, Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'out

Al Rawabdeh delivered a speech in which he praised the Armed Forces' role in the history of Jordan. The celebration included national poetry recitals, concerts, and folklore performances.

The celebration was attended by senior civil and military officials and a large crowd of people.

International celebrations

In Islamabad, Pakistani President Zia Ul Haq called at the Jordanian embassy and conveyed his country's best wishes to Jordan on the Great Arab Revolt

and Army Day. The president paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for his endeavours to serve his nation and for bolstering Pakistani-Jordanian ties.

The president also attended a reception hosted by the Jordanian military attaché in Islamabad.

In London, Maj.-Gen. Shafiq U'ellat, the Jordanian military attaché at the Jordanian embassy, held a reception on the occasion. It was attended by senior British officials and heads of diplomatic missions to the United Kingdom.

Committee formed to prepare for expatriates conference next month

AMMAN (Petra) — A higher committee has been formed to take charge of preparations for next month's third expatriates conference which is expected to be one of the major conferences to be held in the Kingdom, according to Dr. Saleh Khasawneh, under secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development which is organising the conference.

He said that the committee is chaired by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan and groups representatives of a number of ministries. Several working papers have been prepared and they will all be submitted to the participants in the conference. Contacts through Jordanian embassies abroad are under way to arrange for the participants to come and take part in the meetings, Dr. Khasawneh noted. He said that most of the participants will be

coming from Arab countries in the Gulf region.

The recommendations of the previous conference will be reviewed and followed up at the coming conference which will tackle social, economic and political issues, he said. Jordan's endeavours to convene an international conference for establishing peace in the region will be high on the agenda, Dr. Khasawneh noted.

He said that "working papers" dealing with economic issues will tackle Jordan's economy and investment opportunities for businessmen; government's measures to facilitate and protect investments will be discussed in detail by the participants.

Also on the agenda, he said, is the question of the labour market in Jordan and the prospects for expatriates to work here and abroad, the problem of unemployment and the prospects for the future in the light of the government's measures to contain the problem, Dr. Khasawneh added.

He said that a working paper will deal with the situation in the occupied Arab territory and the sufferings of the Arab people under Israeli rule.

This coming conference, he said, is designed to further strengthen Jordan's relations with the Jordanian expatriates working and living in different countries, specially in the Gulf region. The expatriates have to know the facts about the social, political and economic situation in their home country and Jordan's stands with regard to Arab issues, Dr. Khasawneh added.

He said that the delegations will have a good chance to contribute to solving issues of concern to their country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Anti-smoking committee to hold seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian national committee for combating smoking is making preparations for holding a three-day seminar next April on the dangers of smoking, in cooperation with the Health Ministry and a number of organisations. Subjects for the conference were reviewed at a meeting between the committee's members and its president, Zahar Malhas and Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh. The World Health Organisation (WHO) had endorsed Jordan's proposal for considering April 7 each year as free of smoking and called on all smokers to refrain from smoking on that date.

Bashir speaks to Italian Ladies of Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Italian Ladies of Amman held their monthly meeting under the chairmanship of Mrs. Giovanna Amaduzzi, wife of the Italian ambassador to Jordan. The guest of honour at this meeting was Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) who spoke about the federation's objectives and activities. The federation, whose honorary president is Her Majesty Queen Noor, strives to raise the standard of Jordanian women in political, social and economic fields, Mrs. Bashir said at the meeting.

Jordan to attend civilian protection panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the first Arab conference on civilian protection and rescue operations which is scheduled to open at Casablanca on June 22. Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali will take part in that conference.

N. Yemeni minister leaves after meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — North Yemen's Minister of Communication and Transport Ahmad Al Unsi Wednesday left Amman after a four-day official visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Hussein and senior government officials.

He also held talks with Minister of Communications Muhiedine Al Hussein and senior officials at the ministry and the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC).

The two sides also reached an agreement on strengthening and developing telecommunications and postal service between the two countries. Under the agreement Jordan will provide North Yemen with Jordanian expertise in telecommunications field.

S. Korean-Japanese group ends tour

AQABA (Petra) — A joint South Korean-Japanese delegation left here for home at the conclusion of a four day visit to the port city of Aqaba.

Ministry to give number of contests to voter lists

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Interior will announce on Thursday the total number of contests filed to the voter list for the parliamentary elections, according to ministry sources.

The ministry has been hearing individuals who are contesting the voter lists drawn up as a result of last month's voter registration drive.

The ministry, the sources said, is completing the voter registra-

tion procedure. On Wednesday, the ministry requested all concerned committees in the various governorates to send the full lists of those who have contested the voter registration lists.

The end of the period to contest the lists is this Saturday.

The ministry will issue voter cards for eligible voters at the beginning of July in accordance with the 1986 election law, the sources said.

Philippines voices support for Jordan's peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Philippines ambassador to Jordan, Juan Saez Wednesday paid tribute to the friendly and cordial relations between Jordan and the Philippines and expressed his country's support for the just causes of the Arabs.

In a statement released on the eve of the Philippines National Day, the ambassador said that his country continues to favour U.N. General Assembly resolutions condemning Israel for its continued occupation of Arab territories.

The Philippines, he said, supports a lasting and comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in their homeland.

The ambassador was hosting a



Juan Saez reception at the Philippines embassy in Amman on Wednesday to mark the occasion.

Spanish attaché celebrates Army Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Spanish defence attaché in Amman held a reception Wednesday June 10 to celebrate the Armed Forces Day in Spain. The reception was attended by members of diplomatic missions in Jordan and senior Jordanian officials and a group of key public figures.

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الشركة العربية لتجارة الآليات
الهندسية والمعدات الثقيلة
م.ب. ٦١٥٤ عمّان - الأردن - تليفون ٧٤٠٨٤٠ - ٧٤٠٨٤٨ - فاكس ٢٣٤٩٦

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Venice's incomplete agenda

WHAT is even more important than the subjects mentioned in the statement issued by the Venice Summit of the seven industrialised countries on June 9 are the concerns which escaped the eyes and attention of the leaders gathered in Venice. Or perhaps it would be more appropriate to see the statement within the light of what His Majesty King Hussein said on Tuesday: the superpowers are following a policy of containment in the Middle East and this policy only deals with the by-products of the region's problems but not their root causes. This is how we in this region of the world view the political outcome of the gathering in Venice, especially in these critical times when we have just observed the 20th anniversary of Israel's occupation of our lands and the subjugation of our people.

The decision by the big seven in Venice to exert urgent and concerted efforts on the international level to end the Iran-Iraq war and to apply, through the United Nations Security Council, sanctions against the recalcitrant party engaged in the seven-year-old conflict, is a move in the right direction, albeit late. We certainly commend the decision of the Western leaders to resort to the United Nations Security Council in order to attain free navigation and unimpeded shipping in the Arab Gulf. After all, the United Nations Security Council is the main and paramount international organ for the maintenance of peace in the world. We can also understand and appreciate the concern of the seven over the issue of terrorism and even the plague of AIDS. However, we do not even understand their apparent apathy and indifference towards the heart of all of our problems and crises in the Middle East which is no other than the Palestinian conflict. When, may we ask, would the Israeli occupation of our lands and their subjugation of our people ever constitute for them a flash-point worthy of their collective comment, scrutiny and recommendation. What must we in the Arab World do to attract the eye and attention of these giants?

The least that the seven powers could have done is to support the projected international peace conference on the Middle East or even make a comment or reference to it. Surely they must have heard about the on-going turmoil, strife and bloodshed in the occupied territories. Only a few days ago, Jewish settlers in Arab lands attacked our beleaguered people in the Dheisheh camp and threatened their lives and brought havoc to their homes and properties. Our universities there are often closed and students and professors expelled. Our youth are murdered almost daily at the hands of the Israeli police and army. Reports emanating from the West Bank and Gaza Strip confirm that the Israeli authorities practise systematic torture, inhuman and degrading treatment against our people whose only aspiration is an end to the Israeli occupation and the attainment of liberty. We have the right and duty to demand of the Western leaders the same quality of responsibility and leadership which they have accorded many flash-points in the world to the simmering Middle East conflict. Otherwise, the stakes for them and for us could very well become much higher and hotter.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The way out

ON the 20th anniversary of the fall of the occupied lands to Israel King Hussein warned the Arabs to beware of the danger that awaits their nation. He said in a speech to the Royal War College graduates that the Arab World is threatened with two types of dangers that also endanger world peace and security: The Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war. The two conflicts clearly reflect the lust of our enemies to expand at the expense of the Arab territory, while the two superpowers continue to follow a policy of containment that cannot and will not solve the problems and end the sufferings of the people in this region. Containment policy as the King said, does not prove that the superpowers seek to achieve regional peace which is part of world peace and, therefore those that turn their back on our region cannot be really interested in establishing world peace. The King said that an end to the Gulf war should be sought by the Arabs and the superpowers as well; and that the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland should be restored. The selling of arms to the enemy and the containment policy followed by the superpowers cannot achieve Arab aspirations, and therefore intrinsic Arab force should be built if this nation wants to protect its identity.

Al Dustour: King calls for solidarity

KING HUSSEIN has once again reiterated Jordan's keenness on Arab solidarity for serving the higher Arab interests. He said that Jordan, acting on the basis of the Great Arab Revolt and its principles, has been endeavouring to unify Arab ranks and serve Arab Nation's interests. In his speech to the Royal War College, the King referred to the containment policy exercised by the superpowers, describing it as failing to achieve peace, but leading to regional conflicts in the Arab area. King Hussein was careful to focus light on the situation in the region which is attracting the attention of the superpowers that strive to serve their own purposes and interests. He called on the major powers of the world to shoulder their responsibilities towards regional as well as world peace, and to act now to stop the conflicts in our region and save the Arab people further tragedies and sufferings. The King pointed to Iran and Israel as aggressors who refuse to achieve peace with their neighbours with the hope of expanding their territory at the expense of Arab countries. Jordan, he said, rejects the policy of containment and will continue to work for a lasting settlement.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan rejects containment

KING HUSSEIN has voiced Jordan's rejection of the policy of containment practiced by the superpowers in the Middle East. He said that such policy tends to serve colonial interests and has failed to achieve peace, or end regional conflicts. These superpowers, he said, strive to sell arms and accumulate wealth at the expense of the sufferings of the Third World countries. The King warned that the Israelis and the Iranians are both intent on expanding their territory at the expense of the Arab land, and on pursuing aggression in order to achieve that goal. For this reason, he said, Jordan has been striving to achieve a unity of ranks and solidarity among Arab countries so as to protect Arab Nation's interests. The reply to the policy of containment which has been encouraging Iran and Israel in their aggression is through unified Arab stand and an end to differences among Arab countries to pave for joint action. Israel, the King said, has been scoffing at Arab bids for peace, hoping that as time passes it will consolidate its hold on Arab land. For its part Iran is pursuing acts of aggression and military adventures to achieve its goals in the Arab homeland.

Can the PLO now seize its opportunities?

By Naseer Aruri

The writer is professor of political science at Southeastern Massachusetts University. His article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

Will the next few years witness further erosion of the Palestinian position or a turning of the tide?

THE 18th Palestine National Council convened after the Palestinian people had reached an impasse in their struggle to realise their minimal objective — an independent state in eastern Palestine and Gaza. Since the re-emergence of Palestinian nationalism 20 years ago, the interests of the Palestinian movement have collided with those of the dominant powers in the region: the Arab state system, whose defeat in but six days undermined its legitimacy as a viable agent of liberation; Israel, whose stunning victory in 1967 placed it face to face with the direct party to the conflict; and the United States, which had to cope with a post-Nasserite period of turbulence in an area which it came to regard as its own turf.

The challenge which Palestinian nationalism presented to each one of these three forces, as well as their responses to the challenge, generated a relationship which imposed certain restraints, yet promised potential opportunities for Palestinian nationalism.

As the PLO grew dangerously dependent on external support and its future became inextricably linked to the changing interests of the Arab states, its effectiveness in realising its own *raison d'être* of changing the status quo was seriously curtailed. The Arab state system would not tolerate any fundamental changes in the status quo which ran counter to the interests of that system, as the experience has demonstrated.

since 1970. Given these constraints, the PLO was in danger of becoming more answerable to the Arab state system than to its own constituents. The diplomatic campaign which the Arab states and the PLO waged jointly after the 1973 war failed to bring the Palestinians nearer their goals. And during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the diplomatic successes of the 1970s weighed very little on the siege of Beirut. That invasion, in fact, prolonged the impasse and led to the fragmentation of the PLO.

The question now is whether the next few years will witness further erosion in the Palestinian position or a turning of the tide. The major restraint has, of course, been the disunity of the PLO. Without unity, there can be no remedy for the impasse, no cure for the paralysis, and no clearly defined strategy; hence no hope of success. The unity session of the PNC in Algiers followed a split which had enabled several Arab forces — regular and irregular — to attack Palestinian communities and undermine their cause. While Amal laid siege to refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria continued to fragment the Palestinian struggle in an attempt to establish hegemony over the movement. Israel contemptuously applied an "iron fist" policy in the occupied territories, while Egypt and Morocco lobbied

Palestinian leaders to recognise Israel, even as Israel rejected such recognition.

The PNC meeting, however, was convened against the background of serious impediments which faced not only the Palestinians but other regional actors and the superpowers too. The various initiatives by Jordan and Egypt came to naught in the face of opposition by the U.S. congress to arms shipments and the reluctance of a disappointed U.S. secretary of state to remove the Middle East from the bottom of the diplomatic agenda. The leadership crisis in Israel has prevented Israel from adopting a coherent policy that could end the political stalemate. Syria's design for a new order in Lebanon was dealt a severe blow when its Amal proxy proved to be too weak an instrument to implement it. American credibility reached an all time low in the wake of revelations about arms shipment to Iran and the diversion of profits to the contras. It was hardly an accident that the 12 EEC foreign ministers called on 13 February for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, a position which runs counter to Washington's agenda.

By emphasising a more independent and unified posture, the PNC has made the PLO less vulnerable vis à vis the disparate Arab states.

The reconciled PLO could now insist on pursuing the objectives outlined in the 1974 Rabat and 1982 Fez summit meetings without having to bend to the narrow dimensions of Arab strategies. The pursuit of political and national independence from the Arab states and from Israel can

now be simultaneous. The opportunities which may now be open for the Palestinians will be inextricably linked to the extent of the PLO's independence and the quality of its unity. A unified and independent PLO could offer Syria an enhanced role in the regional politics of the area, just as Syria could enhance the PLO's own role in a peace process. By the same token, a heightened Soviet posture in the Middle East could become more manageable with the cooperation of a PLO reconciled with Syria, just as the PLO would benefit greatly from greater Soviet influence and the end of America's monopoly of Middle East diplomacy. The more cohesive the PLO, the stronger will its relationship be with Syria and the USSR and the less vulnerable will it be to U.S. prescriptions and Israeli coercion.

By terminating the PLO's post-1983 regional and global alignments the PNC has paved the way for a restructured alignment, more in line with the reconstituted movement. This is not to say that the factions which re-joined the movement will impose their terms on the majority. The move towards reunification was an implicit recognition that previous strategies were flawed. By dissolving the National Salvation Front, which was to be Damascus' instrument for challenging Arafat's leadership, the leftist factions served notice to President Assad that they are not puppets. By the same token, Arafat's adoption of their platform — the abrogation of the Amman accord and the categorical rejection of Washington's arbitrary conditions for PLO recognition — sig-

nalled an important shift towards Syria's declared position. That, however, entailed neither acceptance of Syrian leadership nor the repudiation of relations with Egypt. The overriding consideration was the preservation of the PLO as an independent national body within the Arab World.

Needless to say, this independence is what has always disturbed the Arab states. Their eagerness to carve out the Palestinian cause among themselves and to control the factions has inflicted severe damage on the movement, the people and the cause. It is no wonder that despite meticulous efforts by the 18th PNC to avoid a break with Egypt and despite acceptance by the official Egyptian delegation of the PNC formulation, the Mubarak government impulsively closed the PLO offices in Egypt.

For the past few years, those Arab states who purport to understand the realistic requisites for peace have urged the Palestinians to speak with one voice; ironically the emergence of that one voice in Algiers has already caused consternation in Palestinian-Arab relations. The Saudis are unhappy that the Communist Party is now represented in the PLO's executive committee; Morocco is angry that Polisario was represented at the PNC. Syria has sent word to the leftist leadership not to return to Damascus for the time being. Such improbable convergence is not without precedent, but it is unlikely to undermine the PLO, whose hard-won cohesion confronts the Arab states on both sides of the spectrum with a serious dilemma. The reunified Palestinian movement has rela-

tions with Syria, Jordan, the various Lebanese factions, the Soviet Union and Egypt. Any one of these groups would be risking reproach where it to pursue peace without the PLO. And the road to the Soviet Union is not necessarily through Damascus.

In the final analysis, the true test of the PLO's reconstituted cohesion will come if and when hard choices have to be made: Whether the international peace conference will be shaped by Peres and Mubarak, in which case it would be nothing more than what Shultz describes as "supportive international context," in which "geographic sub-committees" would serve as new euphemisms for direct negotiations; or whether it will be shaped by the Soviet Union, Syria, and a united PLO in which the victor, will not be able to impose conditions on the vanquished. It will also come when the hard question will have to be answered as to whether success is achievable on the basis of cooperation with an Arab system whose very survival is considered a vital American interest.

The platform, which characterises the new political landscape, implies that Palestinian redress cannot emerge from the present constraints embedded in the local, regional and global environments. When these restraints are overcome, under conditions of national unity, they may be turned into opportunities. That means a decision to redraw the terms of discussion; to redefine the rules of the game; and to recapture the initiatives. A longer-term investment may have to take priority over short-term returns.

Chinese weapons capture new markets

China is mounting a peaceful invasion of Third World countries — by selling them arms. Colina MacDonnell describes how Peking is engaged in a huge push to expand weapons sales.

PEKING — China was probably the world's fifth-largest arms exporter last year, after the U.S., the Soviet Union, France and Britain. While Peking's figures are closely guarded, sales are thought to have exceeded \$2 billion. China's recent invasion of new markets is likely to turn the volume up even further.

Thailand's army commander-in-chief, General Chauvalit Yongchaiyut, has signed a military assistance pact which will permit Thailand to buy Chinese weapons on concessionary terms. These include tanks at \$250,000 apiece, compared with the normal world market price of about \$1.5 million.

Bangkok is about to sign a deal for at least 30 Chinese T-69 tanks and 30 anti-aircraft guns plus ammunition, for Baht238 million (\$9.01 million) under the pact. This follows a gift from Peking two years ago of 18 130mm artillery pieces.

At the same time, Peking is negotiating the sale of its F-7M Airguard supersonic fighter to Brazil. The number of aircraft involved is not known, but diplomats in Peking said they believed it to be "several dozen." China has previously sold the F7 to Zimbabwe and possibly Iraq, but this is likely to be China's largest aircraft sale yet.

Peking is engaged in a huge push to expand weapons sales to earn more foreign-exchange. Under the Chinese system, much of this is kept by the military which can use it to buy more foreign weaponry. While China cannot afford large-scale purchases to modernise its huge military machine, it buys selectively to update existing equipment, which in turn becomes more attractive to its potential Third World markets.

Most Chinese weaponry is an

improved version of Soviet 1950s armaments, for example the T59 and T69 tanks, modelled on the 1959 Soviet T54. Its F6 and A5 fighters are derived from the MIG 19, the F7 and F8 from the MIG 21 and 23 respectively. The F7M Airguard is an F7 with avionics sold by Britain's GEC, the A5 has been similarly improved by Italy's Aeritalia and the F8 is expected to carry the U.S. avionics for which a \$550 million agreement was signed last year.

While the Chinese do not usually reveal their prices, the F7M Airguard is said to cost a fifth of the price of the admittedly more advanced U.S. F16. But for the Third World, the combination of rugged Chinese frame and sophisticated electronics is attractive.

The same update policy is being applied to ground weapons and naval equipment. China's chief military manufacturer, the North China Industries Corporation (Norinco), last year signed a deal with Britain's Vickers Defence Systems to produce jointly an armoured personnel carrier, with Vickers supplying the gun turret with modern electronics. This is specifically aimed at Third World countries. Mr. Zhou Peide, president of Norinco, said last year that several more similar co-production deals were in the pipeline.

The China State Shipbuilding Corporation, which has already sold 200 fast patrol boats around the world, is planning to update its submarines. Eleven British companies, including Barr and Stroud and Racal Defence Systems, held a seminar in April in Peking on diesel electric submarines.

Under Chairman Mao, China's arms were almost given away abroad to win political influence. This policy was transformed by

China's late-1970s single-minded search for economic growth, which required more exports. At the same time, the huge Chinese arms industry, under a more business-like administration, struck lucky with war and unrest in the Middle East and Africa.

Peking's first Middle East customer was Egypt, spurred by the need to replenish weapons lost in the 1973 war and cut off from Soviet supplies. Between 1976 and 1983, sales of \$500-\$700 million were put through.

The Iran-Iraq war provided more scope. While the Chinese deny they sell arms to either side, it was widely reported that in 1982 China began to supply F6 fighters to Iran, following that with a \$1.6 billion deal in 1985 for more F6s, tanks, artillery and missiles.

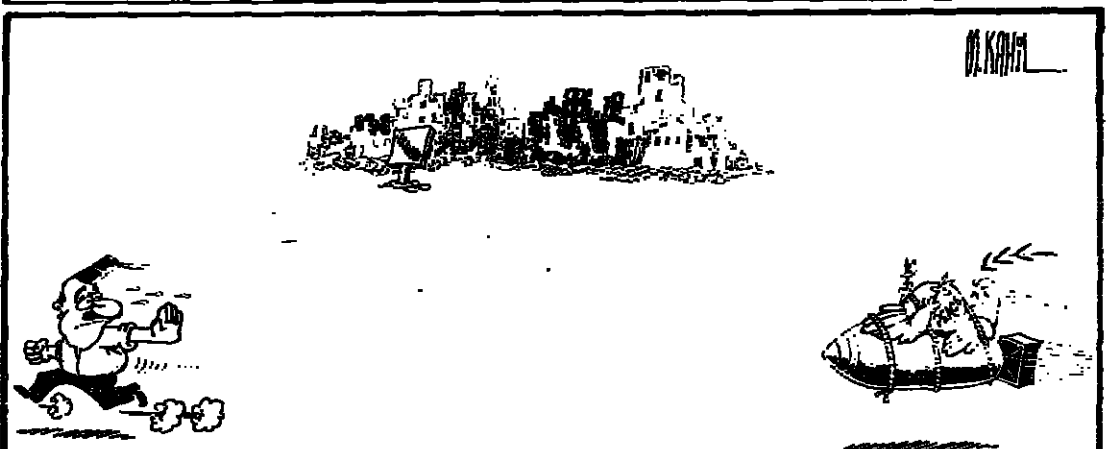
Last August, Iran reportedly took delivery of about a dozen F7s, with military observers commenting that many more could be in the pipeline.

Likewise, Iraq has reportedly bought 260 Chinese tanks and a large number of F7s, delivered via Egypt.

Pakistan is also a major customer for armoured vehicles and aircraft. Last year, it planned to produce its own plane by mounting a U.S. engine on the Chinese F7 airframe and fitting it with modern avionics, but the cost and equipment problems have delayed the project.

About 30 or 40 other Third World countries, many in Africa, today buy arms from China, attracted by their low cost, toughness and easy-care qualities.

China's military industries, spear-headed by Norinco, are increasingly moving into allied export fields such as fire-fighting equipment and uniforms. With its 1 million workers and more than 200 factories, Norinco is the world's largest arms manufacturer and undoubtedly believes it can capture a much larger share of the world arms market — Financial Times news feature.



Karami murder widens rift in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The murder of Lebanon's moderate Prime Minister Rashid Karami has prematurely opened next year's presidential election, threatening more instability as rival factions jockey for position, political sources say.

Karami, killed on June 1 by a bomb placed on his army helicopter, was a veteran politician whose death deprived the Sunni Muslim community of its weightiest voice and Lebanon of a powerful symbol of unity and religious co-existence.

"The countdown to the 1988 election has begun," a Muslim political source in West Beirut said. "Karami's assassination has opened a new struggle which will go on until the election."

Muslim suspicions that Israel ordered the attack on Karami to challenge Syrian influence in Lebanon have been matched by Christian fears that Damascus will demand a high political price to offset the death of one of its closest supporters.

In Christian east Beirut, political sources predicted Syria and its Lebanese allies, who have implicated the anti-Syrian Lebanese Forces in Karami's killing, would now try to force President Amin Gemayel to order the army to confront the Christian militia.

Amid recriminations between Muslim and Christian factions, moderate Shi'ite parliament speaker Hussein Hussein resigned on Friday in anger at what he said was an attempted cover-up in official inquiries into Karami's death.

Hussein also urged Gemayel to act against the Lebanese Forces, which has had links with Israel.

"What interest does the president have in preferring illegality to legality?" he asked in a resignation statement.

"Is it in Lebanon's interest to see Israel's plot aimed at dismembering Lebanon and ending its independence follow its course?" he said. "Or to see a handful of agent-adventurers, imposed on the Lebanese, define its future?"

Gemayel, a Maronite Christian, now rules with an acting prime minister, an acting parliamentary speaker, a caretaker cabinet whose Muslim members have boycotted him for 18 months, and an army under suspicion.

"Syria may get acting Prime Minister Sedn Hoss to resign to step up pressure on Gemayel to confront the Christian militia — or to quit himself?" a Christian analyst told Reuters.

Christian sources said they believed neither the president nor the army were keen to initiate a bloody military show-down.

An army takeover of east Beirut had been one of the demands posed by Karami, who resigned on May 4, for any revival of the three-year-old "national unity" government.

Gemayel had not accepted Karami's resignation. Political sources said secret talks had been in progress before his murder to persuade him to re-appoint and expand his cabinet in return for political reforms and moves to extend state authority.

At Karami's funeral in the northern city of Tripoli, Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam was quoted as saying the search for the premier's assassin took priority over all else.

"This means a new issue is added to the Lebanese crisis and relations with Syria," a Muslim source said. "Political reforms and (Syrian) ties with Gemayel have been put on the shelf."

This September, the 45-year-old president enters the last year of a six-year term marked by continued civil war violence.

Out of favour with Damascus for most of his mandate, notably after he rejected a Syrian-backed peace plan for Lebanon early last year, Gemayel has survived Muslim demands for his ousting.

Since civil war began in 1975, Lebanon's Muslim majority has demanded changes to the 1943 national covenant which gives Christians a six-to-five majority in parliament and stipulates that president and army commander be Maronite Christians, the prime minister a Sunni and the parliament speaker a Shi'ite.

The president is chosen by parliament, which has lost 17 of its 99 members since the last parliamentary elections in 1972.

The forthcoming race for presidency — Dany Chamoun, son of the anti-Syrian Finance Minister Camille Chamoun, has already declared himself a candidate — is likely to intensify conflict over Lebanon's battered constitutional structure.

Gemayel, with support from many Christians and some Muslims, has resisted reform plans enshrining closer ties with Syria.

Since Damascus so far has shrunk from backing demands for his overthrow, political deadlock has resulted, preventing any effort to tackle an economic crisis highlighted by the collapse of the once stable Lebanese pound.

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

LONDON — Blacks are likely to get into parliament for the first time since 1929 in Thursday's general election, reflecting the beginnings of electoral power for Britain's 4.4-per cent non-white population.

For the first time in decades, candidates of black and Asian descent have been put up by the major parties not as token candidates in constituencies where they stand no chance of victory, but in districts where their party has had a large majority.

The opposition Labour Party is fielding a record 14 non-white candidates, the centrist opposition alliance eight and the ruling Conservatives six.

The Labour Socialists have led the field in advancing black candidates, but it has been a painful experience, since its black

and Asian supporters are demanding more clout than the party is willing to deliver.

Britain's non-white community of 2.4 million consists mostly of immigrants from its former empire — blacks from Africa and the West Indies, Asians from the Indian subcontinent.

Their plight is a familiar one in Western Europe. Their unemployment rate, at 20 per cent, is double the level for whites. Most live crammed into inner city slums, they are subject to frequent racial harassment — incidents recorded by police in London rose from 1,515 in 1984 to 1,937 in 1985, the latest year available.

It is in the inner cities that their electoral power is most evident. Bernard Grant, Diane Abbott and Paul Boateng, the three Labour candidates most likely to be elected, all represent inner London constituencies. Grant's constituency of Tottenham suf-

fered severe race-related riots last year. One policeman was killed.

Labour's black supporters pose a dilemma for the party. On the one hand, they are part of Labour's natural constituency among the underpaid and unemployed. On the other hand, Labour's primary backer is the trade unions, which are wary of boosting jobs for blacks at the possible expense of their white members.

Conflicts with black leaders burst into the open earlier this year over the demand by non-white members for a "black section" — separate representation which would entitle them to place members on the policy-making national executive committee.

Party leader Neil Kinnock argued that a black section was tantamount to apartheid in the party.

The dispute worsened in April when black section campaigners

defied party warnings and held a meeting attended by Sharon Atkins, a Labour candidate in the Central England city of Nottingham.

After Mrs. Atkins exclaimed to the audience that "I don't give a damn about Neil Kinnock and the racist Labour Party," the party dismissed her as Nottingham candidate and replaced her with an Asian.

"She caused offense right across the party — a party that has a better record against racism than any other in the whole of British history," said Kinnock. But many blacks pointed out that women and young people already had separate sections on the 29-member executive.

Says Leroy Wallace, a Nottingham black activist: "The Sharon Atkins affair brought it to a head. None of the parties, least of all the one (Labour) that has made a lot of mileage out of being a party

for minorities, has any commitment to true equality."

The affair could hurt Labour. Pollsters say it is likely to cost Labour the only seat it stood to win in Nottingham, and could have repercussions throughout the surrounding Midlands, where 30 seats are crucial to Labour's chances of defeating Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"Eighty to 90 per cent of blacks vote Labour," says Kingsley Abrams, president of the black section campaign. "Even people in our community who disagree with what Sharon said are dismayed at the way the party acted her. If the party goes down the road of expelling members because of a political difference it will be a disaster."

Mrs. Atkins says a black section would signify a growing clamour for ethnic representation in politics. "They want recognition," she says.

Director Ken Russell mixes drugs, sex, Gothic novels

By Richard Lormand
Reuters

NEW YORK — Director Ken Russell is renowned for daring and controversial scenes — nude male wrestling in "Women in Love," and an atom bomb sequence at the end of "Madame Butterfly," — but he says he can no longer take his flamboyant imagination for granted.

"The older you get, the more concentration it takes," said the 60-year-old British director. "It used to just happen. Now I find it's harder, but the results will be more dramatic."

His most recent film, "Gothic," maintains the Russell drama. It depicts a legendary chapter of literary history, involving the romantic poets Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley and their assorted lovers and companions in a Swiss villa in the summer of 1816.

"Gothic" condenses the summer into one frenzied night of hallucinogenic drugs, orgiastic sex and the fundamental elements of a horror movie — a spooky mansion, stormy evening and frenzied ghost stories.

Often called self-indulgent for his imaginative visual technique in "Tommy," "Altered States" and "Crimes of Passion," Russell has also become one of cinema's most controversial filmmakers because of his daring use of sex.

He was praised for the nude male wrestling scene in "Women in Love" (1969) but sultry scenes with Katharine Turner won the uncensored version of "Crimes of Passion" (1984) an X-rating.

Russell told Reuters that spicing up scripts with "a bit of European dirt" is only an effort to do what audiences expect of him.

"I suppose if I was left to my own devices," he said, "I would make films about children dancing in the fields and chasing butterflies."

But those who experienced the summer of "Gothic" chased not butterflies but demons.

During that summer, Byron (Graham Greene) played host to fellow poet Shelley (Julian Sands) and Shelley's mistress and future wife, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin (Nastassja Kinski).

Also present were Mary's step-sister, Claire Clairmont, who was pregnant with Byron's child, and John William Polidori, Byron's doctor and friend.

Two classic works of horror — Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's "Frankenstein" and Polidori's "The Vampyre," a precursor of Bram Stoker's "Dracula" — resulted from the tangled emotional relationships of the "Haunted Summer."

In nightmarish sequences, the film shows how the group decided to evoke a phantom by concentrating on bringing to life each participant's worst fear.

Byron grapples with leeches. Shelley is near madness with thoughts of being buried alive. Polidori attempts suicide.

Shelley and Byron were using laudanum, an alcoholic solution of opium.

Russell's love of music often colours his films. "Music is my drug," he said. "It carries me away to flights of fantasy."

He said he didn't "really listen" to music until, at the age of 17, he discovered Tchaikovsky.

"From that moment, whenever I heard music, I had very vivid pictures in my mind and I could hardly keep them out. That was a natural step to making films."

Russell's interest in romanticism came much later. As a teenager, he opted for the pop culture of his time.

"Dorothy Lamour and Betty Grable — they were the heroes of my youth, and not Byron and Shelley," said Russell.

During his Southampton childhood, Russell would escape the sound of World War II bombs and his maritime academy's emphasis on "manly pursuits" by sneaking off to the movies.

Russell got his creative revenge on the all-male school when he staged the end-of-the-year concert, which normally clad cadets in gentlemanly formal attire.

"But I had them all in drag singing Carmen Miranda numbers," said Russell. "There was a near-riot and I left at the end of the term. That was my entry into show biz."

After a brief stint in the British merchant marines, Russell took up dancing, acting, photography and "just about anything remotely associated with films."

He made a few amateur movies and landed a job with the British Broadcasting Corporation.

He has made several movies based on the lives of composers, including "Mahler" and "The Music Lovers," about Tchaikovsky.

The rock music of the two was used for "Tommy," and British pop star Thomas Dolby scored "Gothic."

He directed Stravinsky's opera, "The Rake's Progress," for the stage in Florence in 1982 and was praised for changing the setting from the 18th century to contemporary Britain without altering a word of text.

Russell's production of "Madame Butterfly" at Spoleto in Italy had as its climax the dropping of the atom-bomb on Hiroshima, and his "La Boheme," also in Italy, had the innocent Mimi experimenting with hallucinogenic drugs.

He is scheduled to stage Wagner's "Tannhauser" in Britain next year.

An updated, script-intact, version of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" on Broadway with Glenda Jackson and Christopher Plummer is in the works for Russell in 1988.



Splitting Image campaigning in British election: (Left) Mrs. Thatcher rounds on heckling resident and right the two Davids hit the election trail with a bang.

Polls lift the quality of 'new' politics

Polls and TV have transformed politics. They dispel myths, eclipse personalities and foster serious debate on the issues that concern voters, argues Simon Jenkins, from The Sunday Times

SO HAVE the pollsters spoiled it all? Is the ballot box redundant, standing there in its sad corner of Dodswell Mixed Infants like a Play School prop awaiting a hungry gerbil?

Dirty tin boxes have always made improbable arks of the covenant of liberty. Yet for a moment next Thursday, they offer Dodswell man the chance to fly free of political bondage and commune with the gods of democracy. As his hand closes round the municipal pencil, it trembles with the power of kings and conquerors. And all this on a rainy day in Dodswell Mixed Infants? It would tax the imagination of a Walter Mitty.

Still, it gets Mr. Mitty away from the pollsters. The election campaign has been dominated by the polls as never before. A poll story has led the news in the quality press more days than not. Up to 200,000 citizens have been quizzed in 200 public and private polls in the past four weeks. The odds of being polled are 250:1, and shortening.

The moguls of Mori and Gallup have pulled rank on Thatcher and Kinnock. They are accused of degrading the franchise and robbing the electorate of dignity. Why bother to vote, some ask? Why not privatise the election, give the contract to a "poll of polls" organised by the Market Research Society?

Some curse the polls, some want them banned. In America, the New York Times rules that no election poll can appear above the fold on its front page. Victorians felt much the same way

about the secret ballot: "real men" voted in public, not in the snivelling privacy of a booth.

The new generation of quickie quota-sampling polls are undoubtedly changing the character of elections. Dozens of facsimiles of the Great British Public now flourish up and down the country. They are amazingly accurate. The average margin of error since polling began in 1945 has been 1.5 per cent per party share. This is despite the fact that the error could go as high as 4 per cent either way. This implies a range of 8 per cent on any figure, worth at least 100 MPs. I would not back a horse on that basis.

The significance of polls is not just in predicting the race. They have declared the swingometer obsolete, flooding campaign managers with issues, "switching and churning" leadership profiles and geographical divergences.

Panel polling tells us that at least a quarter of the electorate is genuinely floating at the start of each campaign. In the past three weeks, some four million voters have actually switched party allegiance in response to the campaign. This has surprised many politicians, whose chief contact is with the faithful, and who assume, with W.S. Gilbert, that almost everyone votes "to my party's call."

We are now drawn ever deeper into the political psyche of these mysterious switchers and churning. Myths are destroyed: floating the electorate of dignity. Why bother to vote, some ask? Why not privatise the election, give the contract to a "poll of polls" organised by the Market Research Society?

Some curse the polls, some want them banned. In America, the New York Times rules that no election poll can appear above the fold on its front page. Victorians felt much the same way

and law and order some way behind. It was not militant activists telling Kinnock "what working people want" who encouraged him to trim on public housing, trade union reform and nationalisation. It was Bob Worcester of Mori.

With an election looming, the Tories conceded money to both the health service and the universities after private polls had warned them they were vulnerable.

The chief victim of this new responsiveness is the Alliance. Once the darling of the polls, it now suffers as they direct the big parties' fire at its weakest flanks. Polls are making coalitionists of us all.

They have also fed that other innovation more dominant this year than ever before: saturation coverage by radio and television. The ballot may not be compulsory in Britain, but the television campaign is. A total of 70 per cent of the electorate confesses to having watched party election broadcasts, and half confesses to hating the experience. But still the BBC's neo-Reithians plough on. They have all but supplanted the traditional mass meeting and hustings. Even the staged photo-opportunity seems to have lost its appeal. Only Kinnock can turn a rostrum into something approaching good television.

The "new politics" meets not in draughty halls but in a television studio or on a radio phone-in. In the 1950s, elections were strictly for addicts. Leaders took a medieval progress round the country, with set speeches in the manner of Gladstone and Disraeli. There was no cross-questioning, no debate, no exposure of issues. Democratic participation was just a heckle.

The electorate today participates hourly on radio and television. On Election Call and Question Time and the Politics of

Choice, what are known as "ordinary people" speak out of the ether in eerily sensible tones. They are mostly courteous, thoughtful, open minded, in stark contrast to the stage army of raucous politicians and interviewers (On World At One last Friday, Michael Meacher was seized with verbal diarrhoea that had us longing for the sanity of "Brian from Barnet" or "Sarah from Streatham").

All this, of course, can lead the political horse to water, but not make it drink. Dozens of surveys have told the Tories that Mrs. Thatcher is a liability with floating voters. She is seen as too contentious, too uncaring and her party too much a one-woman band. Amid one of the crudest and most inept campaigns in recent electoral history, the warning appears to have gone unheeded. The banshee wail still sounds each night across Smith Square: Thatcher, Thatcher, Thatcher...

Nor is the converse any different. For all the slickness with which Labour has packaged itself amid bitter Tory protests — oh, how things change! — it appears that the government's economic policy is still regarded as sound and Labour's is not. No amount of salesmanship can induce a nervous market to take a risk on a still imperfect product.

That said, poll-guided tele-participation is a vast improvement on all previous forms of election. Like it or not, the past fortnight has seen a furious national debate on defence, on education, on health and on the state of the economy. British elections now have more serious content than any I have witnessed abroad. Polls have allowed voters to participate free of the prejudices of the high priests of party. They are a political Reformation and a thoroughly good thing.

Randa Habib's

Graduation message

IT is graduation season. For our students it is the end of childhood and the beginning of adulthood. At this "turning point" in the lives of our beloved sons and daughters, some facts should be said. Allow me then to share with you, graduates of today, or tomorrow, parents and friends, the following from an address made by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath at a graduation ceremony last week, at a large school in Amman:

"Education is not just learning and erudition. It is also a code of social behaviour intended to make you worthy human beings, and worthy citizens... Schools have always been the most important means of transferring the great wealth of society from one generation to the next. This wealth is placed into your hands as your inheritance in order that you may receive it, honour it, add to it and one day faithfully hand it to the next generation... You have duties of service towards those who lack the advantages and opportunities you enjoy, because the more privileged you are, the greater is your responsibility towards the under-privileged. The more you receive, the more you must give."

"... Never before in human history was the need for charity and love as great or as urgent as it is in the age in which we live... Once a primary school student was asked by the teacher: 'What shape is the earth?' and the young student quickly answered: 'My father says it's in the worst shape it ever was.' Perhaps it is."

"We live in a world where more than one billion people are chronically under-nourished. At the same time almost \$2 million per minute are being spent this year in the world military expenditure. There is a relentless arms race that no one can win... Our global situation is indeed bleak, but we cannot allow our hopes to crumble in despair."

"... Science alone cannot transform our planet with all its races and peoples, all its creeds and aspirations, into a society where truth reigns and love is the law. It is within ourselves that we should look for sources of energy and inspiration which will help us solve our problems."

"Educated youth are the world's richest natural resource — for the youth of today are the leaders and decision-makers of tomorrow. And so on this day which brings you to the end of the foundation phase of your education, we encourage you to proceed on your march towards higher learning and return the fruits of your labour to bring peace and harmony, progress and prosperity to all the communities of the world."

U.N. award stimulus to Tunisian programme

By Rashida Ennaifer

TUNIS — The 1987 U.N. Population Award has been given to Tunisia (jointly with Bangladesh) for the work of the National Office of the Family and Population (NOFP). The Office was chosen from 17 other organisations and personalities mainly from developing countries.

The NOFP was created in 1973 to give the family planning programme, launched 12 years previously, an autonomous and specialised structure.

From the start, the programme was supported by various legal measures, beginning with Law No. 61-7 of 9 January 1961 which authorised the sale of contraceptive devices and products and rescinded the pro-natalist measures introduced under the French protectorate. Other laws limited the number of children eligible for family allowances to four and subsequently three; raised the minimum age at marriage to 15 for women and 18 for men, and subsequently to 17 for women and 20 for men; and legalised abortion during the first three months of pregnancy.

The first experimental family planning programme was launched by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs. Responsibility then passed to the newly created Directorate of Maternal and Child Health, from which was born the National Office of Family Planning, later renamed the National Office of the Family and Population.

The history of Tunisia's family planning programme reflects a development in the conception of family planning from a medical procedure only concerning women to a social, economic and cultural action aimed at the whole of society.

"Thus there is increasing emphasis today on public information to involve men more in family

planning decisions, on extramarital sexuality, especially among young people to help them prevent unwanted pregnancies, and to transform the relationship between parents and children by providing greater security for old age."

A recent study on the motivation for larger families showed that in the majority of cases children were looked on as a form of old age insurance and social security in case of sickness or invalidity. Government measures in 1974 establishing the principle of social security, and extended in 1981 especially to the agricultural sector, are thus likely to encourage smaller families.

These socio-economic measures along with medical improvements to service provision reflect official attempts to speed up the fall in the birth rate. At present the total fertility rate (the number of children the average woman has during her lifetime) is 4.65. The family planning programme has certainly had an effect on fertility, since it has fallen from 7.1 in 1966. But it is still too high, the authorities believe, since a rate of 2.4 would be enough to replace the generations.

Another cause for concern is that the fall in fertility has been slower in the second decade (1976-85) than in the first (1966-75). Some experts even claim that the rate has been level since 1976-78. The U.N. Award is thus expected to be a catalyst to greater efforts to achieve a balance between population growth and economic development.

"A more vigorous education programme coupled with improved services to achieve better coverage with more effective methods, — these are the ways in which the NOFP will work for a more enlightened and responsible family," says Dr. Hedi Mhenni, president of the National Office.

— People Features.

More allergy research is needed, doctors say

By Thomas Agthe

BONN — One German in four has an allergy. More and more people are finding themselves allergic to a growing range of substances at a steadily earlier age.

Dr. Martin Fischer, of Heidelberg University Hospital's pain centre, where acupuncture has been practised for five years, says treatment should begin six to eight weeks before the pollen season.

Hay fever affects the mucous membranes of the upper respiratory passages and the eyes. The atmospheric pollen count of grass, trees and cereals is its

cause. Inhaling pollen irritates the mucous membrane, causing hay fever, asthma and even apnoea, or stoppage of breath.

May and June are the danger months for hay fever. Dr. Fischer lists the benefits of what is a classical Chinese treatment. "Patients don't need to take powerful drugs and they don't suffer from side-effects."

Treatment is best begun six to eight weeks before the pollen season. Twelve sessions are usual. Dr. Fischer says well over

60 per cent of patients treated in this way survive the pollen season without the telltale symptoms.

About half of them find they have no trouble with hay fever for two or three years.

Dr. Erich Rebholz in Eberbach reports similarly successful results at the Waldbrunn acupuncture centre, where treatment has been given for years.

Acupuncture redresses the balance of the immuno-vegetative nervous system, which is off-balance among allergy victims.

—Stuttgarter Nachrichten.

Acupuncture: hay-fever hope

By Ingeborg Bordlein

A 60 per cent success rate has been reported in acupuncture treatment for hay fever victims.

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Wilander ousted from London tourney

LONDON (R) — French Open finalist Mats Wilander became the latest victim of the switch from clay to grass when he lost to West German Eric Jelen in the first round of the London grass court tennis championships on Wednesday.

Wilander, who contested the French Open title against Ivan Lendl on the clay surface court of Roland Garros on Sunday, was beaten 6-3, 6-7, 6-4 in a match resumed in the third set after rain forced play to be suspended Tuesday.

Wilander became the second big-name casualty of the Queen's

Club Tournament following Tuesday's first-round elimination of fourth seed Yannick Noah of France by another West German, Andreas Maurer.

The third-seeded Swede, who saved two match points on Tuesday before finally succumbing to the hard-serving Jelen, ranked 72nd in the world.

"It's hard to get your mind on it when you go from the French Open to Queen's," said Wilander. "Going from clay to hard courts or from hard courts to grass would be bad enough. This is too

hard."

Wilander was lucky to playing at all Wednesday. Jelen had thoroughly dominated the Swede in racing to a 6-3, 5-3 lead Tuesday. Then came an attack of nerves.

"Yesterday I played perfect tennis but on match point I started to think 'oh, you're going to beat Wilander.' I was nervous."

Wilander, 2-0 down in the deciding set overnight, saved another match point before recovering the service break to trail 5-4. But after winning his first three service games of the day to

love, he lost his touch. He fell behind 15-40, saved another match point and finally succumbed when he could not handle Jelen's deep groundstroke to the corner.

Jelen, who last year reached the last 16 at Wimbledon, was relieved it was over. "Even though I was ahead 2-0 I didn't sleep too well last night after having had those chances," he said. "I just tried too much to win."

Wilander said: "I would have liked more match practice on grass but I think I should be ready for Wimbledon."

Cruz wins 1,500 m race

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Olympic champion Joaquim Cruz of Brazil used his guile to stage a brilliant closing sprint and overtake Canadian Dave Campbell to win the 1,500 metres Tuesday night at the Harry Jerome International Track Classic.

Cruz, winner of the 800 metres at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, passed Campbell on the final straightaway and managed to hold off the challenge of veteran Mike Boit of Kenya and Cyril Laventure of France over the final 50 metres, while the exhausted Campbell dropped to fourth place.

Racing with only two days rest after the Prefontaine meet in Eugene, Oregon, where the trains, Cruz was timed in 3 minutes, 39.09 seconds and was named the outstanding male athlete of the meet.

Boit was second in 3:39.41, Laventure third in 3:39.88 and Campbell, the two-time Canadian 1,500 champion, fourth in 3:40.39.

American sprinter Alice Brown, the Olympic silver medalist in the 100 metres, won her favourite event in 11.32 seconds and was selected the meet's top female performer.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

England's winger signs for Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Liverpool, seeking strike power in the wake of Ian Rush's departure to Juventus of Italy, has signed Watford's England winger John Barnes for £900,000 (\$1,494,000). Former European champions Liverpool, who originally made their offer before the end of the English season, pulled out of the deal on Sunday after losing patience with Barnes. He had hoped to join a leading European continental club but, accepting he would not get his wish, Tuesday persuaded Liverpool to resurrect the move by pledging his future to the Anfield team. Barnes, who made the last of his 31 appearances for England against Brazil at Wembley last month, said: "Liverpool will improve me as a player and will benefit my international future. I don't mind whether they play me as a winger or a striker — wherever I can fit in."

Top two seeds advance in Bologna tourney

BOLOGNA, Italy (AP) — Top-seeded Kent Carlsson of Sweden whipped Tore Meinecke of West Germany 6-1, 6-4 Tuesday in the first round of the \$107,000 Bologna Tennis Tournament. Second-seeded Martin Jaite of Argentina downed Mexican Francisco Maciel 6-0, 6-2 on the red clay. In other opening-round matches, American Jimmy Brown upset seventh-seeded Argentinean Guillermo Perez-Roldan 7-5, 6-2; American Blaine Willenborg ousted Italian Omar Camporese 6-3, 6-3; and eighth-seeded Sergio Casal of Spain defeated Marco Armellini of Italy 6-4, 6-3. First place is worth \$17,000.

Syria plans lavish splash for Mediterranean nations

LATAKIA, Syria (AP) — Despite serious economic problems, Syria is organising a \$300-million sports bash for 17 European and Arab nations of the Mediterranean basin.

The 10th Mediterranean games will be held Sept. 11-26 in a new sports complex in this port city. A French Olympic official, after a recent visit, called the 400-acre (162-hectare), seaside complex "one of the finest in the world."

Claude Collard, vice-president of the games' International Executive Committee, said he had been to many Olympic games and had never seen better accommodations than those for the 3,500 expected athletes, most of whom will be housed in a newly completed 2,300-bed tourist complex on a Mediterranean beach of soft golden sand.

"Getting them off the beach is going to be a problem for the trainers," said Nikos Filaretos of Greece, secretary-general of the games committee. But some of the visitors won't be so lucky. Preliminary football and basketball games will be staged in Aleppo, while tennis and cycling in Tartous and shooting, handball and equestrian events in Damascus, where accommodations are comfortable but not as glamorous as officials confirmed that

priority in money, materials and personnel was given to the Syrian Military Construction Firm (SMCF) which is erecting a 45,000-seat stadium for track and field, a 3,500-seat swimming-diving complex, and five suspended tent halls with a total of 8,000 seats for boxing, wrestling, basketball, gymnastics and other sports.

The \$300-million complex is to be completed Aug. 1, Syrian Sports Federation Chief Samih Mudallal said.

Japan has loaned Syria \$60 million for sophisticated communications equipment for distribution and display of the results of 18 different sports and for use by 500 journalists expected to cover the events.

Syria has bought an American computer to store all entries and events, and flash results instantly to terminals scattered around the games sites and in a press and broadcast centre.

Countries taking part are Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, San Marino, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Albania has applied to join the Mediterranean games for the first time this year. The executive committee is expected to accept the application later this month, Collard said.

The Mediterranean games are sponsored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch is expected to attend the opening ceremonies with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Collard said Assad pressed hard to have the games in Syria, adding that the event will be a boost to sports in the country as young Syrians see top athletes in action.

Syria is already working hard to make a good showing, with hundreds of athletes training under the supervision of Syrian, Soviet, Japanese and Chinese

coaches.

Diplomats in Syria's capital, Damascus, said Assad is counting on the games to boost Syria's prestige in Europe.

Some foreigners in Damascus questioned the wisdom of the large expense of the games, much of it in desperately short hard currency.

Official figures were not available on Syria's foreign-exchange reserves. But two months ago, reliable economic sources reported that reserves had fallen below \$100 million, enough for only a few days' imports.

To get around the hard-currency shortages Syria has turned to barter deals with many Western countries, trading its phosphates, textiles, cotton fiber, cement, asphalt and canned foods for essential imports such as pharmaceuticals and machine parts.

A striking indicator of Syria's economic problems is the fall of the value of the Syrian pound in unofficial transactions from 12 pounds to the dollar at the end of 1985 to more than 30 now.

The government keeps the official exchange rate pegged at 9.75 pounds to the dollar, but tourists can get an "encouraging rate" of 24 at banks.

Syria, to maintain a state of preparedness for possible conflict with Israel, spends just over half its budget on the military.

One Syrian official, who declined to be identified, said luxury imports have been cut back and exports are picking up, improving what was a disturbing situation.

He said the sports complex will be a permanent asset for the country.

McEnroe on brink of pullout of Scottish tourney

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — The chances of John McEnroe playing in a Scottish grass-court tennis tournament for Wimbledon this week were rapidly vanishing Wednesday as officials tried to track down reports that the American star was physically "not right yet."

Two London-based national newspapers, the Times and the Daily Mirror, said McEnroe had decided to skip the Scottish Championships in Edinburgh.

The Times also quoted McEnroe as saying the pressure building on his family was "intolerable" and that, while he accepted the blame for some of his trouble with tennis officials, "I just never seem to get a break."

While stressing that she had

heard nothing official, Karen Scott, the Edinburgh Tournament's director, said McEnroe's participation "now looks like a remote possibility."

"We have not been told officially that he has withdrawn, although everything points to that," she said. "We only heard at midnight that he would not be flying over Wednesday, and I will be speaking to McEnroe's father at lunchtime to find out if he will be over here at all."

"If he doesn't turn up it will be a sad loss for the tournament..." She said she did not know who would take McEnroe's place in the tournament, which includes Ivan Lendl as top seed on the men's side and Gabriela Sabatini top-seeded among the women.

Seeded players are to join the tournament with quarterfinals Thursday, and McEnroe's first match was slated for Friday.

The Times and the Mirror said McEnroe had practiced on grass courts in New York after his first-round elimination from the French Open and decided to skip Scotland.

The seventh-ranked American complained of a leg injury after suddenly walking off court during the final of the World Team Cup Tournament in West Germany. The head of Men's International Professional Tennis Council, (MIPTC) Marshall Happer, is investigating that incident and could suspend McEnroe for up to one year if he finds the American violated certain rules.

Lakers beats Celtics, takes command in NBA final

BOSTON (AP) — Magic Johnson drove into the lane for a hook shot with two seconds remaining Tuesday night, giving the Los Angeles Lakers a 107-106 victory over the Boston Celtics and a 3-1 lead in the NBA championship series.

Game 5 will be Thursday night at Boston Garden, but even if the Celtics win, the Lakers have the next two games at home and the Celtics have lost six straight road playoff games by an average of nearly 16 points.

The Lakers, who trailed 103-95 with 3½ minutes remaining, rallied with a 9-0 spurt to take their first lead of the game since early

in the first quarter.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's dunk made it 104-103 with 29 seconds left, but Larry Bird gave the Celtics a two-point lead with a 3-pointer from the corner with 12 seconds left.

Abdul-Jabbar, who scored 10 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter, made one free throw with eight seconds left, then missed the second, but Boston's Kevin McHale knocked the ball out of bounds. After a timeout, Johnson, who finished with 29 points, calmly dribbled away several seconds in the corner before driving into the middle for the game-winner.

Bird then missed a long jumper at the buzzer, leaving the Lakers with the victory they needed to put them in complete control in the series.

The Celtics, who had won five consecutive playoff games at

home and 85 of their last 87 appearances at Boston Garden, stifled the high-powered Los Angeles attack for 2½ quarters in a game that saw tempers flare twice into minor scuffles.

The Celtics are trying to become the first team since the 1969 Celtics to repeat as NBA champions. That Boston team also trailed 2-0 to the Lakers after two games in California. But they evened it 2-2 in the next two games at home.

James Worthy, held to a total of four points in four consecutive quarters after leading the Lakers in scoring for six of seven playoff games before game 3, finished with 21 points, and reserve Mychal Thompson joined Abdul-Jabbar with 16.

McHale led Boston with 25 points, Danny Ainge added 23 and Bird 21, despite missing 11 of his first 17 shots.

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S. Korean students disarm, beat police during protest

Ruling party chooses Roh to succeed Chun

SEOUL (R) — At least one policeman suffered severe head injuries when hundreds of students disarmed and beat up about 30 riot police during major anti-government riots Wednesday night in the South Korean capital, eyewitnesses said.

They said at least five other officers were hurt by the mob, which attacked after the police unit ran out of tear gas. The most seriously injured man had his head battered by a rock.

Elsewhere in the capital, where demonstrators staged many attacks on police positions, a student was badly hurt by splinters from a tear gas shell, Yonhap News Agency said.

The fighting followed opposition attempts to stage big rallies in Seoul and 19 other cities.

Demonstrators were protesting against President Chun Doo Hwan's decision to shelve constitutional talks and at the ruling Democratic Justice Party's nomination

Wednesday of Mr. Chun's close aide Roh Tae-Woo as its candidate to succeed him as president.

The mood was worsened by news that a student activist, hit by a police tear gas canister during a campus demonstration Tuesday, was declared brain-dead in hospital and was being kept on a life-support system.

More than 150 students who occupied the lobby of a major Seoul hotel during the protest Wednesday left voluntarily after an hour.

But South Korean police arrested dozens of them after they left the city centre hotel, eyewitnesses said.

Hundreds of police had held

back from moving against the protesters in the Lotte Hotel, indicating they could continue their protest outside the nearby Anglican Cathedral.

But once they left, police launched a surprise attack and hauled many away, onlookers said.

The students were demanding full democracy in South Korea and the resignation of President Chun Doo Hwan.

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Soviets seek tight new limits on nuclear test blasts

GENEVA (AP) — The Soviet Union has called for strongly tightened limits on the power of U.S. and Soviet nuclear test blasts in what it billed as a concession in the face of U.S. refusal to discuss a complete test ban.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky also put forward a framework test ban treaty with "large-scale" provisions to guard against cheating.

He said only the two superpowers should initially be bound by the treaty and would have to set an example encouraging other nuclear powers to join.

Mr. Petrovsky made the proposals at the opening meeting of the summer session of the 40-nation Conference on Disarmament, the world's main multilateral arms control forum.

The bilateral test ban limits urged by Mr. Petrovsky would lower the present agreed maximum yield of 150 kilotons to one kiloton.

He said the Soviet move aimed to inject movement into U.S.-Soviet nuclear test talks in Geneva, which he said were "stalled."

The talks began last July. A fifth round ended on May 29 still without agreement on an agenda for formal negotiations.

Washington has refused to consider a test ban, saying that an agreement on eliminating nuclear weapons must come first and claiming that tests are needed to preserve a safe stockpile.

Mr. Petrovsky said the Soviet Union continues to prefer a stop to all underground nuclear tests, the only kind permitted since 1963.

But "taking into consideration the U.S. position, we would be ready to agree to limit the yield of nuclear explosions to one kiloton and reduce their number to a minimum," he said.

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Thatcher poised to win again in today's elections

LONDON (R) — With one day to go before voting in Britain's general elections, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher looks unstoppable in her bid to win a third term and govern Britain into the 1990s.

Opinion polls Wednesday suggested Mrs. Thatcher's Conservative Party was heading for victory but might be returned with a reduced majority.

The opposition Labour Party has dismissed opinion polls saying they produce distorted figures and that the gap between them and the Conservatives is much narrower and could be closed.

Mrs. Thatcher spoke Tuesday night at her final rally, in the north eastern English county of Yorkshire, just hours after returning from the Venice Economic Summit.

"We are a lion-hearted nation, ready to confront the 21st century and reach out for greatness again. Let us continue our task on Thursday," she said, adding this could be the most important election this century.

Mrs. Thatcher said her government had rebuilt national defence, curbed union power, reduced inflation and transformed an economy "blighted by the 'British disease' into Europe's success story" and warned Britons the opposition Labour Party could condemn them "to a second-class life in a third-class country."

As she celebrated the end of the three-and-a-half week campaign by drinking champagne on

the plane back to London, Mrs. Thatcher said: "We are never over-confident but ... I hope and believe we will get a good majority."

One opinion poll, conducted by Marplan for the Today newspaper, gave her Tories 43 per cent of the votes, Labour 35 per cent and the centrist Liberal Social Democrat Alliance 21 per cent.

These figures, which were unchanged from a similar poll published on June 6, would give the Conservatives a 50-seat overall majority in the 650-member House of Commons, compared with their present 140-seat majority.

Another poll, by Gallup for the Daily Telegraph, gave the Tories 41 per cent, Labour 34 and the Alliance 23.5 per cent, which would give the 34-seat majority.

A third poll, by Harris for the London Daily News, narrowed her lead to five points at 41 per cent, compared with 36 per cent for Labour and 23.3 for the Alliance. This would give Thatcher a 20-seat overall majority.

Labour's foreign affairs spokesman Denis Healey added spice and drama to the campaign Tuesday when a television company said he swore at a woman presenter and punched her colleague. Mr. Healey denied he had sworn at the presenter.

Mr. Healey warned Tuesday night that "the re-election of a government led by Mrs. Thatcher would set the world on the path of extinction."

Rome police seek Asian man after embassy blasts

ROME (R) — Italian police are hunting an Asian man travelling on Canadian and Thai documents after a powerful car-bomb blast and two near-simultaneous grenade attacks on the U.S. and British embassies in Rome.

Police issued an artist's impression of the man, described as clearly of Asian appearance, Tuesday night after the explosions early Tuesday which they said were probably linked to the seven-nation economic summit of major industrial democracies in Venice.

Nobody was injured in the blasts, but the explosives-packed car caused considerable damage to cars and buildings when it blew up near a U.S. embassy perimeter wall in a side-street off the fashionable main Via Veneto

thoroughfare. The Interior Ministry identified the man in a statement as Edwin Hsu-Kao-Yen, aged between 33 and 40, and said he had rented a room in a hotel facing the U.S. embassy from which two home-made missiles were launched at the mission.

The ministry said in its statement that one grenade, fired from a launcher made of a length of steel tube, was fired into the grounds of the British embassy one kilometre from the U.S. mission but caused no damage.

In Tokyo, Japan's National Police Agency said Wednesday it was checking reports that Japanese radicals may have carried out bomb attacks on the embassies in Rome.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkin

BOOKS BY Grace C. Plinkston

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Diagrammatic 17 x 17, by Roger Colvins

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